

THE LEISURE HOUR

A FAMILY JOURNAL OF INSTRUCTION AND RECREATION.

"BEHOLD IN THESE WHAT LEISURE HOURS DEMAND,—AMUSEMENT AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE HAND IN HAND."—*Cooper.*



A SPINNING-WHEEL PARTY AT BARNEY BRALLAGHAN'S.

THE FOSTER-BROTHERS OF DOON.

A TALE OF THE IRISH REBELLION.

CHAPTER XXI.—A SPINNING-WHEEL PARTY.

THE time for the election drew on. Captain Gerald came down to canvass, feeling sure, in his easy way, of his return: making a play of the whole affair, rather—which was his habit about most things in life. He was going into Parliament chiefly to please his father, who was himself the other member for the constituency, and had set his heart on having two Butlers representing the ancestral borough of Doon.

No need at all had there been of a canvass, if the constituency had been as obedient as of yore. The colonel hardly anticipated anything else; but lo! an adventurous young barrister was found and qualified by the national party—*alias* the United Irishmen—to set himself up against the hereditary representative, Captain Gerald Butler. And this interloper had come down from Dublin, gifted with an abundant power of speech and of blarney, conveyed in the richest peasant brogue, and with an occasional interlarding of Irish phrases, which went straight to the national heart. Short, and broad, and comfortable, he seemed the personification of

fun and ready wit: just the man to win the mob, and sway them with half-a-dozen words. And he thoroughly stole the hearts of the men of Doon.

True, there was a party unassailable—not in virtue, nor in attachment to the sept of Butler, but in position as tenants-at-will under the colonel and his bailiff, Bodkin; which latter was in reality the great man and powerful, being the visible authority, wielding stripes and rewards: able to put out of holdings, and able to put in, apparently at his own will. Consequently, when he went from cabin to cabin among the voters on the estate, announcing the captain's candidature, the announcement was intended to be a command, and was taken as such. No matter how cordially hated was Bun Bodkin, he was invested with all the terrors of a dog in office: the tenants knew that he had a long memory and a strong arm, and would sooner or later do them some desperate spite, if they dared affront him by opposing his mandates; so that even those who had a securer tenure than from year to year, knew better than to exercise the franchise against their landlord.

Now the colonel was a chivalrous old gentleman, and steadfast in his own principles and practices of honour; he would take no part in any under-hand electioneering dodges. He would owe his son's return to the unsophisticated preference of a grateful tenantry; and even when he heard of the candidate set up by the enemy, and knew that they were straining every nerve to oust the Butler, he would still condescend to no device for gaining the populace. He remained in Dublin, tranquilly pursuing his usual course; he would not even go down to the castle, lest it might be said that his presence meant intimidation. And, to do him justice, he knew not how perfectly Bodkin would perform the part of terrorist without him.

On this wise did the electioneering proceed.

It was that evening in the beginning of November when the first spinning-wheel party of the season was being given at Barney Brallaghan's cabin, a little way outside the village of Doon. The large low kitchen was flooded with light from a huge turf fire heaped on the hearth: in the very heart of the blaze hung a large pot of potatoes, now bubbling cheerily; and two other pots of potatoes flanked the fire, their stage of cooking not so forward. These were the preparations for supper. The guests were all the "boys an' girls" of the neighbourhood, which term includes the unmarried up to fifty; and a considerable sprinkling of the married came also, scarcely so much for the sake of spinning as for the sake of "divarshin." Mrs. Barney, respecting whose marriage we have heard previously in the course of this history, had brought as dower to her husband not only the pig and the poultry—which last were roosting on the rafters above the company, and the former meandering in and out among them—but also a spinning-wheel, which had done good service in her father's house, and won for her the reputation that there was not a girl in the barony could spin a finer thread of yarn. Anxious to keep up this reputation, she now led the array of wheels, deftly plying the simple machine with foot and hands, to the intense admiration of her lord and master, who averred he would "back herself agin the parish for nimbleness." Other young women and their wheels had also their admirers, though not so legalized as Mr. Brallaghan. Nearly every "colleen" had a "boy" at her elbow, ready to whisper soft nonsense as occasion served. Consequently, a running fire of such rejoinders as "Arrah, be aisy, Pat!" "Lanty, you're the biggest desaver in Ireland!" "Mind your own business, Misther O'Dowd," and the frequent "Behave yerself, sir," might be heard

by an attentive and sharp-eared observer, and reveal to him the state of things, in many quarters, underlying the more public conversation.

"I donno what's become of Freney Furlong the night," remarked Mr. Brallaghan, the host. "He promised me sartin sure to be here, an' he's not used to be any way backward in amusin' himself; an' he all lonesome up at the forge there. Troth, I'm thinkin' that it's ather takin' a wife he ought to be: come, girls, which ov ye will have Freney?"

A titter ran round the circle: nobody cared for a half-witted "bachelor" like the blacksmith; and, during certain badinage which followed, in he shambled, ducking his shock head in obeisance to the company.

"We won't say before yer face all we was sayin' ov behind yer back, Freney, me boy," said the host, "lest yer complexion mightn't ever recover for the blushes. Mary Conolly was wondhering if ye don't find it a lonesome life up at the forge. Look how she tosses her head!—always a sign that the bit's in the horse's mouth, ma colleen!"

"I'm sure if there wasn't another bachelor in the barony—" began the young lady in question; but her thread, snapping at the moment, demanded all her attention, and likewise the attention of a tall fellow behind her chair, who did not resemble her sufficiently to be taken for her brother.

"Tis manners to wait to be axed," retorted Freney, as he began to tune his violin, having lifted it affectionately out of its case. "It isn't my intintion ever to marry, but to lave all my goold to little Una," he added, with demureness.

There was a general laugh at this boast, for Freney was hardly supposed to know the colour of a guinea.

"An' as to Una, they say Miss Evelyn is makin' a lady intirely of her up in Dublin; the housekeeper's daughter's sither-in-law was here yestherday, an' she says that the clothes would stun any one that's put on her: Miss Evelyn has her for a regular pet, an' dhresses her like herself, in silks an' satins." Which piece of information Freney put by in his memory for Myles, as he played the opening notes of that popular melody, "Malony's Pig," perhaps suggested to him by the immediate presence of that sociable animal.

"Where's himself to-night?" continued the host, in a whisper, behind his hand, under cover of the music. "I guess that was what kep you late?"

Freney only nodded assent. He had learned what a considerable power was gained by keeping his tongue quiet within his teeth these dangerous times. The truth was, that Myles had been manufacturing pikes at the forge, and giving his brother a lesson in the same art, which seemed likely to be in large demand. Freney had left him at it, to keep his appointment with the spinning-wheel party.

Loud calls were now made on the fiddler for a song. One or two amateurs had obliged the public in this way previously, but in a very shame-faced manner, turning their countenances to the wall as they sung, and holding down their heads, which was considered "the thing" in Doon society. Freney had no notion of such bashfulness, being a professional; and it was in no timidity he gave forth the song ending thus:—

"Her name to mention might cause contention,
And it's my intention for to have no strife;
And as to woo her, since I'm but poor,
I'm really sure she won't be my wife."

This, considered as a pendant to the foregoing conversation, was received with applause. Mr. O'Doherty the Philomath, who came in during the progress of the

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ditty, was next assailed for his contribution to the hilarity of the evening; though with a sort of reverential solicitation befitting his learned character.

"My frinds and pupils," began the little schoolmaster, with benign pomposity, "if aught from my poor accumulations of learning and philosophy can add to your agreeability on this occasion, far be it from me to withhold such effort and endeavour. Professors of the fine arts and the seven sciences, like me, have not generally a superfluity of time to cultivate light literatare; an' perhaps the ballad I'll sing is no stranger to such of yez as attended to your Red-a-madaisy when ye wor young. Play up 'Behave politely,' Freney."

To which tune the Philomath, in a voice replete with cracks and strains, uttered a composition of which a single verse will probably satisfy the reader:—

"Great A he discompared to a cabin's gable end, sir:
And B, it stands for butter, which you to the market send, sir.
C is half a griddle, and H a haggard* gate, sir:
While P, it stands for pitchfork, and K, it stands for Kate, sir!"

It will be observed that the ditty aims at combining instruction with amusement; and so was in perfect keeping with Mr. O'Doherty's usual pursuits, while it was as far removed as possible from the dangerous topic of politics, of which (in public) the pedagogue had a wholesome horror.

"We thank yer honour humbly, sir," said Brallaghan, with a pull of his forelock. "Nancy, I think we might strhain thim praties—the boys an' girls 'll be gettin' hungry wid the fair divarshin. Ah, Mary Conolly, it's a shame for yez to be puttin' yer fingers in the eyes of me brother Jem that way!"

The maiden bridled, and declared that she didn't want Jem Brallaghan to take the knots out of her thread; she was perfectly well able to do it for herself; yet a glance from the kneeling swain, who held the tangled yarn in his fingers, covered her with vivid crimson. Meanwhile, the host carried the pot of potatoes in his brawny arms across the cabin, and emptied the entire contents into a turf-basket set over a tub. Of course the boiling liquid dripped through the wicker. Five minutes afterwards, the table had been pulled from the end of the apartment, where it had stood "out of the way," and its surface smoked with poured-out potatoes, bursting in balls of flour from their thick brown coats. And never was more hilarity at a Lord Mayor's feast than at that rude repast in Barney's cabin.

"Come in!" cried he, in answer to some vigorous tapping at the door. "Troth, an' I don't know who's so mannerly as to knock here," he added; "we don't practise thim little pieces of politeness in these parts. Naboklish!" Barney sprang to his feet, and dashed the potato which he was gingerly peeling into the ashes. "Sure it isn't his honour the Dublin counsellor!"

"Exactly so, my friend; Counsellor O'Regan, at your service; an' I hope you'll do me the honour of a shake-hands;" and the new candidate for the borough came forward into the full firelight, followed by two or three of his electioneering staff. His merry eyes twinkled as he glanced round. "The fact is, Mr. Brallaghan, that hearing you had a few friends—"

"Yer honour's as welcome as the new praties," asseverated Barney. "Girls, push down there, an' make room for the honourable counsellor an' his friends; an' it's hopin' it's a mumber o' parlymint he'll be soon, in spite of the black Butlers!"

"Whisht, Barney, achora," whispered his wife. "Sure the colonel's the landlord—an' Bum Bodkin has ears that'll hear anythin' anywhere."

* Potato-garden.

"An' it's sorry I am not to have any dacenter supper to offer you, counsellor," continued his host; "troth, if that pig, the villain, wasn't walkin' about, we'd have an iligant rasher off him this minit!" The beast seemed to feel its owner's covetous glances, and changed its whereabouts with a snort.

"Thank you," said Mr. O'Regan, "I'm too good an Irishman, boys and girls, not to think potatoes the best fare in the world!" And forthwith the candidate set himself down among the guests, and began to do as they did—peel the food with his fingers, and thereafter dip it into a little mound of salt common to half a dozen of his neighbours. The hearts of the table were gained instantly. And then—what an agreeable counsellor he was! what stories he had, and what jokes and pleasantries! The very thatch shook with the laughter he evoked. Yet it was his design to evoke rather a deeper feeling than amusement; and presently, treading on the very verge of sedition, he recited a certain poem current in those times among the disaffected, of which the following may be specimen:—

"Promotion in Ireland from Papists stands so far,
That higher than a constable they will none prefer:
Captivating culprits being a dangerous anare,
Employment for a Papist, that berth they did prepare.
They have made a Protestant sky over Irish earth:
So that Papists for a livelihood must all turn knaves,
Otherwise be craftsmen, or downright black slaves!"

Now, although the grievances here represented did in nowise affect the candidate's audience,—they being all handicraftsmen born, and without ambition to be anything else,—yet it was strange to see how the eyes glowed and the faces became stern, and the men of the company forgot even the soft society of which they formed part, under the exciting influence of these dramatically-delivered words. The cultivated reader may deem the effusion doggerel; but its rudeness made it only the more powerful with rude minds; to many of them it was not new from the candidate's lips, yet lost none of its force with its novelty. After the foregoing lines came others, relating how, after much labour and learning, a man became a priest:—

"Yet after such industry, English law disowns
Himself and his flock to be aught but vagabones:
I defy the man in Ireland to thrive who goes to mass."

"And here," exclaimed the candidate, throwing forth both arms tragically; "here, boys, if we wanted a proof of the iniquity of them same English laws—which we don't—but if we did, 'tis here ready for us. The man who wrote that ballad I've just said for you, poor Donocha Rua the Red-Pedder, an' as harmless a crature as ever lived, was indicted for high treason at your own Wexford Assizes, an' thrown into prison—just because he dared to tell a little bit of truth, boys! But if your votes and voices put me into parliament, boys, never fear but they'll hear enough about it! For they daren't imprison a parliament-man, boys: an' up to their faces I'll tell 'em of their tyranny, ay, if the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Lieutenant were to hang me up on the next tree—like the poor boys on Slieve-Bui," he added, in a tragic tone.

There were rounds of applause for the heroic and self-devoted candidate; and a disposition to hug him, on the part of the more demonstrative. He went on to a white heat, pledging himself to martyrdom if need be, or, indeed, whether there were need or not. The more extravagant his affirmation, the more stormy the applause; he had them crying over their wrongs presently.

"Och, wirrasthru an' murther in Irish! to think ov the way our ancesthurs was kilt an' slaughtered an' med slaves of, for nothin' at all at all! Sure it's a

wonder there's a single one of us here to-day, afther the thratement we got long ago—an' to say we'd know nothin' about it only for the counsellor comin' an' tellin' us!"

"Troth, an' we'd never know how badly off we wor only for his honour," said Barney. "I never seed a more iligant-spoken gintleman—he has the brogue in his showldhers, so he has! Counsellor dear, it's meself that 'ud like to be walkin' afther ye in a fair, wid a shillelah!"

This vague expression of good-will seemed to satisfy the candidate, who instantly gripped Barney's horny hand in his genteeler palm. "And now, my friends," said he, subsiding from the tragic to the comic vein, "as I've been talking so long to the men, it's only fair to give a little while to the ladies; strike up, fiddler—give us 'The Rakes of Mallow.'"

Thereupon, gracefully advancing to Mrs. Barney, the candidate solicited the honour of her hand "out on the floor"—*alias*, for a dance. The tears of the susceptible were immediately turned to broad grins; the pig, who lay across the front of the fire like an animated fender, was expelled into a corner under the dresser; spinning-wheels were piled away upon the settle-bed, and two ranks of youths and maidens stood along opposite walls, beholding the performance of the pair in the midst. Deftly and neatly did the candidate glide, and hop, and turn, and beat time with his heel all through, opposite his partner; fairly dancing himself into the affections of such portion of the constituency as were present.

And thus was Mr. O'Regan's canvass carried on, thus were voters won; not by the vulgar expedient of bribes, but simply by the blindfolding of their wits with illusive rhetoric and popular manners. Captain Gerald was too indolent and too haughty for such electioneering as this; he would stand apart from the people, and be their choice because they durst not choose any one else.

CHAPTER XXII.—A BLISTER FOR MR. BODKIN.

SOMEBODY had informed upon Myles Furlong; for in a state of society like that of Ireland at the era of which we treat, informers were a plentiful race, despite the terrors of the lawless law, which proscribed them as the veriest vermin. Consequently, on the same night of the spinning-wheel party at Barney Brallaghan's, and while Freney was playing with all his might "The Wedding of Ballyporeen," "Teddy, you gander," and a variety of other popular jigs, his brother Myles was in sore perplexity. A party of Mr. Bodkin's myrmidons, with Mr. Bodkin himself as leader, approached the forge silently, while the blacksmith was yet in the act of manufacturing pikes.

Not unwarned, however. Myles was too old in the ways of sedition to let himself be caught like a rabbit in a trap; he had a watch out, in the person of old Jug, who sat wrapt in her cloak at the sheltered gable-end of the cabin, commanding a view of the three roads converging at the forge. Several nights during that autumn had she thus kept guard, and seen nothing but a fitting bat in the air or a belated turf-car on the earth. Perhaps her watchfulness hung fire a little on this occasion, therefore; perhaps she had dozed somewhat in the folds of the cloak; perhaps the flying moonlight was in fault: but her attention was first attracted, as she gazed along the dull level expanse which lay black against the cloud-heaped horizon, by a flash of light, so short and sharp that it might be only a spark from a footfall against a road-flint. Alarming near! The old woman crouched, every sense on the alert for a moment; then she stole to the cabin door and tapped in a peculiar way.

"They've sowl the pass* on you, Myles ahagur; they're comin' by the Doon road, an' I donno how ye'll have time to get away at all at all."

He went out without saying a word, shutting the door behind him; but returned almost immediately, and began to put up the bars.

"I'd make a better fight here," said he, with a concentrated glow in his eyes. "You must ha' been asleep, mother—there's two parties of 'em—half comin' by the bog, an' close to the back-door already, an' half by the Doon road. Come, now—it's no time for whimpering—an' help to hide the pikes. An' if I knew who's sowl the pass on me," he added between his teeth, "maybe I wouldn't."

"Myles achora, sure ye'll be murdered if ye stay here!" whined the old woman, as with trembling hands she helped to replace the bricks, "unless ye'd condescend to the chimbley; an' troth they're so knowin' they'd light a roarin' fire in a minit an' roast ye down—but only for that there's a couple of little shelves inside, where I used to hide the bit of bacon from the tithe-proctor."

"You're right, mother; the chimbley's the way. Pull out the sods here, that I won't be smothered wid the smoke; an' believe me I'll see you agin safe an' sound. There they are, the murtherin' villains!" and with an impotently wrathful shake of his brawny fist towards the door, which already shook beneath their blows, the blacksmith disappeared. Old Jug sat herself down.

"Why, then, what for do ye come disturbin' a poor old woman this hour o' night?" she exclaimed, in a tone of injured innocence, when the shivered fragments of the door lay before her, and the tread of Bodkin's men filled the forge. "An' me the captin's own foster-mother, to be thrated this way! I'll go up first light to the castle, an' tell it all to his honour's honour, that never refused yet to listen to his ould nurse! An' maybe 'twill be worse for all of ye—" she uttered a suppressed scream.

A shot filled the cabin with noise and smoke. Bodkin, guessing by what way his prey might have made exit, had fired up the chimney. The mother listened in a perfect agony for the result. Nothing. The bailiff turned away with a muttered execration.

"Troth, an' I hope ye haven't hurt any of the poor jackdaws; there's a purty nest of 'em up there all the summer, the harmless crathurs," she said, controlling herself with a strong effort.

"Hould yer tongue, ye jade," exclaimed Bodkin, fiercely, his oscillating eye literally ablaze, "or I'll make it the dear talk to ye. You an' them precious sons of yours are the biggest croppies in the barony—ha! what's this?"

He turned over with his foot a piece of iron lying on the floor.

"A pike, as I'm alive!" He seized it triumphantly in his hand, flourishing it aloft for an instant, but almost immediately flung it down with a yell of pain, having left the best part of the skin of his fingers adhering. It had just passed from the red-hot stage of its manufacture.

"It isn't hurt yer honour is, sir?" cried the old woman, bustling forward. "Freney was at the coulters o' ploughs all day, sharpenin' 'em for the wheat plantin' that'll soon be beginnin' through the counthry."

"Don't let her get the pike, d'ye hear?" called out Bodkin, who was attending to his burnt fingers. "It's wanting as evidence. Boys, the best thing we can do is to put a coal in the thatch, an' burn down the ould rookery for a nest o' rebels."

* "Sowl the pass," given information.

"An' as sure as ye do, I'll get justice from the colonel an' the captin!" screamed the old woman, in a terrible fright, for she had a shrewd suspicion that, lying along on that very thatch, was her son the blacksmith at the present moment, watching his opportunity to drop down outside. "Is it to burn the poor old widow's house about her ears? Av I had to walk on me own two bare feet all the ways to Dublin, but I'll have justice on ye, Misther Bodkin. But I couldn't believe such bad ov ye, hard as ye are. Ye wouldn't forget how I nursed yer own wife through the spotted faver, whin she was Mary Callaghan—"

"Pull her out!" was the bailiff's order. "The colonel's the last man to let a nest of croppies stand for want of a bit of a blaze."

"He gave me a lase of it!" she shrieked, holding by the furniture and the brickwork of the forge. "He gave it to me free for ever an' ever, because I was his only son's foster-mother. He said—his honour said—"

"Come in, you two, and help to carry her out," ordered Bodkin, whose fingers were smarting him horribly. "T'would be a good deed to lave her inside to warm her this cold night! Quick, boys, smarten yourselves; we have no time to lose."

Old Jug's strenuous and protracted opposition was not without adequate motive; she was thus taking up the attention of Bodkin's men, and making both opportunity and time for Myles to get away. Thoroughly overpowered and helpless, she was at last flung against the earthen fence at the other side of the road, and saw the cabin set on fire.

The mischief was not fully accomplished, however. Heavy showers in the day had soaked the surface of the thatch, so that only a portion of it was burnt; and Freney, returning after midnight, contrived to extinguish the smouldering remains.

THE TREATIES OF VIENNA.

"Roll up that map of Europe—it will not be wanted for these ten years." These are the words, a little varying in other accounts, in which the dying Pitt addressed his niece, Lady Hester Stanhope. The great statesman was dying. The battle of Austerlitz had broken his heart. All his best schemes for Europe were crushed. The Continent was more than ever prostrate before the overshadowing domination of Napoleon. The balance of power no longer existed. The historical map of Europe was entirely deranged. The well-known landmarks had been swept away. Old thrones had been shorn or abolished, and new thrones had been carved out for the usurper's kin. Austerlitz had continued this evil, had postponed the redress of national wrongs, for many years. Pitt's health was feeble, his constitution shattered, and this last overwhelming blow was too much for one whose every thought was centred in his patriotism. He went back to his Putney villa to die. Few pages are more deeply interesting than those which tell of the end of the once all-powerful Prime Minister. It was a sad scene, yet not without a ray of light amidst the gathering gloom of ambition's sunset. "Like many, I have too much neglected prayer," said Pitt; "but I throw myself entirely on the mercy of God, through Christ." But evermore the state of Europe, and of England, weighed heavily on his mind. It is now known that his last words were to this effect: "Oh, my country; in what a state I leave my country!"

The words of Pitt were prophetic. Ten years passed away before that map of Europe, with which Napoleon

had played such strange vagaries, could be reconstructed. Before the time of Napoleon, the public law of Europe was mainly based upon the treaty of Westphalia (1648), which concluded the religious wars of Germany, and went far to advance France to the prominence in the affairs of Europe hitherto enjoyed by Spain. There were many wars and many treaties during the century and a half which ensued. Nevertheless, the territorial definition of States had not materially altered. Russia had become an empire, and Prussia a kingdom—each with extensions of territory. France had consolidated and extended her dominions under the fourteenth and the fifteenth Louis. Sardinia had conferred monarchical titles on the House of Savoy, and the Bourbon kingdom of the two Sicilies had been established. These alterations in the aggregate were considerable; but, notwithstanding their modifying effect, the treaty of Westphalia still constituted the most important document that regulated the written or positive international law of Europe. After the downfall of Napoleon it became necessary that the public law of Europe should be again established on a fixed basis, in accordance with the alterations wrought since the treaty of Westphalia, especially by the desolating flood of Napoleon's conquest. We should observe that the expressions "treaties of Vienna," and, still more inaccurately, "the treaty of Vienna," are names roughly and conveniently given to a cluster of treaties and transactions which, after the fall of the first Empire, constructed Europe on a new and universally recognised basis. The most definitive and important of these are known, from the locality, as the treaties of Vienna; although in reality they comprise the Congress of Verona, the treaties of Paris, and other important European legislation, and have also an intimate prospective connection with the Holy Alliance.

Napoleon used to speak of "the sun of Austerlitz." That sun, however, waned and paled, and fitfully set at last amid lowering cloud and storm. When the allied armies had stormed the heights of Montmartre, and were ready to descend upon Paris—when the city had capitulated, and the allies had entered—when the Senate, by solemn decree, had deposed Napoleon—when the emperor found himself more and more deserted at Fontainebleau, with a sore struggle he abdicated, and, after a vain attempt to destroy himself, he set off for the mimic sovereignty of Elba. Louis XVIII, in accordance with the call of the French Senate, became king of France. The first step in negotiation which all the Vienna diplomacy assumed was the memorable Convention of April 23, 1814, by which it was provided that French troops should evacuate all that they held in Germany, Italy, and the Low Countries, beyond the frontiers of old France, as they stood on the 1st of January, 1792. By one blow the whole fruits of the revolutionary wars were thus swept away. Fifty-three fortresses, twelve thousand pieces of cannon, and nearly a hundred thousand men, were at once surrendered. A week later followed the treaty of Paris. It substantially embodied the conditions of the Convention, with important addenda. It was marked by a spirit of forbearance, and even of generosity, towards the French people. There were no instances of vindictive retaliation. France was even left with a small additional territory, compared with her limits before the epoch of revolution. But although the Allies had thus destroyed Napoleon's map, they had not yet re-constructed their own. So to speak, there were now immense territories in the patronage of the Allies. The populations of the regions thus severed from the Napoleonic empire amounted to nearly sixteen millions, and that of the external dependencies to many

millions more. The treaty, however, made certain international arrangements which subsequently became identified with the treaties of Vienna. A leading principle was manifest; namely, that the second-rate States bordering on France should be strengthened, to resist future aggression from the warlike genius of their great and uncomfortable neighbour. Germany was again to be independent, under the guarantee of a federal union. Holland and Switzerland were to be independent; Italy divided into sovereign states; Malta ceded to England. It was agreed that all matters of detail should be left to a congress of all the great Powers, which should assemble in Vienna in the course of the succeeding autumn. The provisions of the Congress of Vienna were still further anticipated by secret articles in this treaty of Paris.

The Congress had not taken place in the summer, because the allied sovereigns had been occupied with their visit to England. When the autumn set in, Vienna, small as a capital city, but remarkable for the magnificence of its buildings, the beauty of its gardens and waters, the noble scenery of its country side, and the fashionable crowds with which it is thronged, filled fast with an august and imposing company. It was towards the end of September that the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia entered the Austrian capital. The Austrian Minister was the famous Prince Metternich, who subsequently presided over the proceedings of the Conference. The wily Talleyrand came to represent France; Lord Castlereagh, and subsequently the Duke of Wellington, England. Russia, Austria, and Prussia were unwilling at first that France and Spain should share in the deliberations until much had been first settled. It was, however, agreed, mainly through Lord Castlereagh, Metternich, and Talleyrand, that the Congress should consist, not only of the four allied Powers, but also of France, Spain, Portugal, and Sweden. The Papal Nuncio was afterwards received. An anxious crowd of diplomatists from other States were also in attendance at Vienna, comprising ministers of state from Naples, Sicily, Bavaria, the Low Countries, Saxony, Denmark, Switzerland, Genoa.

The first proceedings of the Congress were comparatively easy. One important alteration of the map of Europe had taken place just before its assemblage. Norway had been taken from Denmark, and ceded to Sweden. This was according to a treaty between the Emperor of Russia and Bernadotte, King of Sweden, to which Denmark had acceded, and which England had sanctioned. Notwithstanding a heroic resistance by the Norwegians, this settlement was carried out. Of this the Congress of course approved. The Congress had now to deal with those territories of which the allied armies had so recently held possession. Russia had occupied Poland; Austria, all Italy except Naples; Prussia, Saxony; the armies of Wurtemberg and Baden held possession of the Rhine provinces; England, in conjunction with Sweden, occupied Holland; and Belgium, in conjunction with Portugal, part of Spain. The first acts of the Congress, the easiest, and on the whole the most important, were simply to confirm the provisions of the treaty of Paris. These would offer no difficulty, but serious difficulties would arise in respect to Poland, Saxony, and Russia.

Alexander, Emperor of Russia, was from many circumstances the most striking and influential member of the Congress. To his influence Prussia was totally and servilely subordinate. Lord Castlereagh from the commencement had detected this overweening influence, and strove to guard against it. It was most apparent when the subjects of the conference came on in the

following order: Poland, Saxony, Belgium and Holland, Germany, Italy, Switzerland.

As we have stated, the armies of Russia were at this time in the virtual occupation of Poland. They held the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, as created by Napoleon, the Lithuanian and Ruthenian provinces, with Cracow and other important towns. Ever since its shameful partition, Poland has been a trouble and disgrace to Europe. Prince Talleyrand might well say of that partition that it was the "prelude, in part, perhaps, the cause, and even to a certain extent the excuse, of the disorders to which Europe had been a prey." Alexander demanded that the whole of Poland, so far as it was in his power, should be erected into a constitutional kingdom, of which he should be king. It is clear that at this time Alexander entertained a chivalrous dream of re-establishing the Poles in freedom and independence. Both Lord Castlereagh and Metternich strongly resisted this. Alexander burst into a rage. He lost all semblance of peace and moderation. He exclaimed, "I have two hundred thousand men in the Duchy of Warsaw; drive me out of it who can. You are always talking to me of principles. What do I care, think you, for your parchments and your treaties? There is one thing which for me is above everything, and that is my word. Your law is a mere matter of European convention." Happily, however, the Emperor Alexander was one of those who could conquer themselves. Lord Castlereagh opposed him, and frequently in a dictatorial tone, that might be compared with his own autocratic language. In repeated memorials he declared that he opposed firmly, and with all the force in his power, in the name of England, the erection of a kingdom in Poland, the crown of which should be placed on the same head with, or which should form an integral part of, the empire of Russia; that the wish of his government was to see an independent Power, more or less extensive, established there, under a distinct dynasty, and as an intermediate state between the great monarchies.

At the same time Prussia, then as now almost the vassal of Russia, was willing to cede her own Polish provinces to the latter Power, on condition of obtaining Saxony, and an indemnity on the Rhine. The fate of Saxony was doomed. Her prince had so pertinaciously attached himself to the cause of Napoleon, from whom he had received such substantial honours and rewards, and had so resolutely resisted all the attempts of the Allies to win him over to their cause, that it was simply a question of total or partial dismemberment. Austria and France both sided with England against the two great northern military Powers. It soon appeared not unlikely that the world might witness the edifying spectacle of a war among the peacemakers of Vienna. Alexander halted his armies on their homeward march, and Prussia armed her contingents. On the other hand, Austria put her armies on a war footing; France was in no haste to disarm, and British troops were poured into Belgium. A secret treaty was made at Vienna (February 3rd, 1815), between England, France, and Austria, pledging themselves to carry out the provisions of the treaty of Paris, by force if necessary. Other Powers were invited to concur, and the operations of the war were sketched out. The knowledge of this treaty gave alarm to the northern Powers. They would not push matters to an extremity; Russia abandoned her claims to portions of Poland; Prussia would be content with a partial cession of Saxony.

Ever since the battle of Leipsic, Frederick Augustus of Saxony had been a sort of state prisoner. He was now invited to Vienna, and, despite his protests, had to

submit to the decision of the Allies. A portion of his territory, representing 250,000 people, was annexed to Hanover; a portion, representing 1,100,000, to Prussia. He was thus shorn of more than one-third of his possessions. Prussia acquired a portion of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. These accessions of territory, with those on the Rhine, made her an immense gainer, and raised her to the rank of a first-rate Power.

Belgium and Holland were united under the title of the kingdom of the Netherlands. Austria had no wish to retain her old Flemish possessions, which for centuries had been "the cockpit of Europe." The King of the Netherlands was also to be Grand Duke of Luxembourg, which, from its military importance, was attached to the new German Confederacy.

This new German Confederacy superseded the old German Empire and the younger Confederacy of the Rhine. The Federal Act established a Diet, giving all the members separate or collective votes; giving to the thirty-eight members seventeen votes in the ordinary assembly, and seventy votes in the general assembly (Plenum).

In Switzerland, the territories which had been absorbed by France were of course resumed. The present Helvetic Confederacy was founded. The Valais, with Geneva, Neuchâtel, and Basle, were united to Switzerland.

The position of Italy was one of serious difficulty. The inhabitants of Genoa had regained their liberty, and claimed to be restored to their ancient republican state, under the protection of England. Although they passionately protested against annexation, on the ground of the necessity of a barrier against France they were assigned to Piedmont. Lombardy was again assigned to Austria. The question of Naples, however, created the greatest difficulty. Should Murat be deposed, and the Bourbons reinstated, or not? The Emperor Alexander was in favour of Murat, but Lord Castlereagh steadily urged the case against him.

But, before this and other questions could be decided, a sudden thunderbolt was to burst in upon the Allies. One night there was a memorable ball at Vienna, as memorable as a subsequent ball at Brussels. It was one of the most brilliant affairs of that brilliant Vienna season. An acute on-looker, alluding to the political differences that existed, observed, "The Congress dances, but does not advance." A message of supreme importance was brought in to Prince Metternich—a message of electric effect—Napoleon had escaped from Elba. The news proved true enough. There had long been great reason to suppose that Napoleon was contemplating a descent upon France. Sir Neil Campbell, the English Resident at Elba, had detected a great change in the Emperor. Information had even been laid before the Congress of Vienna; but the Emperor Alexander had chivalrously thrown his protection round Napoleon, and strongly rebutted any such assertions or suspicions. Prince Talleyrand, however, on the 11th of March, formally laid the information before the Congress, on the part of Louis XVIII. The Congress accordingly issued one of the most memorable of its declarations. We quote one sentence:—"They declare, at the same time, that, firmly resolved to maintain entire the treaty of Paris, of May 13th, 1814, and the dispositions sanctioned by that treaty, and those which they have resolved on, to complete and to consolidate it, they will employ all their means and unite all their efforts, that the general peace, the object of the wishes of Europe, and the constant purpose of their labours, may not again be troubled; and to provide against every attempt which shall threaten to replunge the world into the disorders of revolution."

The battle of Waterloo terminated the Empire of the Hundred Days. Even if that battle had not been fought, or even if the result had been different, it is plain that the ultimate result would have been the same. When the English and Prussians had marched upon Paris, other immense armies were set in motion; and the soil of France was soon occupied by 1,100,000 invaders. Paris again yielded to Wellington and Blücher, under military convention; all the military points were occupied by foreign troops, and thus Louis XVIII was again enthroned. The Allies were now prepared to exact a terrible but just retribution for the national breach of faith. They imposed heavy penalties; but nothing was more grievous to the French than an act of simple justice to which they were forced. In compliance with a requisition signed by all the artists of Europe then resident at Rome, the Louvre was stripped of the works of art collected there by the spoiliations of Napoleon. And now most of the Allies raised a clamorous demand for what would be a virtual partition of France. Let France be reduced to her ancient limits, such as they were before the Bourbon princes commenced their aggressive schemes. Austria demanded Lorraine and Alsace, Spain the Basque provinces; and beyond this a scheme was afloat for depriving France of her frontier provinces, and her strongholds on the Rhine. It was only by the united efforts of the Russian Emperor, and the representations of England, that France was saved from dismemberment and the extremity of humiliation.

On the 20th of November, 1815, the high contracting Powers of Vienna concluded three principal measures, which included other treaties and conventions, for the final settlement of Europe. The first of these was the second treaty of Paris of this epoch. Compared with the first treaty, it was most disadvantageous for France. The map of Europe was again altered. The limits of 1790, still with a slight balance in favour of France, were adhered to, and the Allies resumed most of the extra territory confirmed to France by the previous treaty. There was a period of long and anxious suspense before they definitely settled the terms on which France was permitted to retain her place among the Powers of Europe. The fortifications of Huninguen, near Basle, were demolished. Seventeen frontier towns were delivered up to the Allies, to be held for five years by an army of occupation, to consist of 150,000 men, to be maintained at the expense of France. A sum of upwards of £61,000,000 was also exacted, payable by instalments, for expenses and indemnities. These terms were most severe; but those which Napoleon had exacted, after his victorious campaigns, had been much severer still. The French people had the poor consolation, of which the veterans of the old army reminded them, that they were suffering even less than they had inflicted upon others.

On the same day another treaty was concluded between Russia, Prussia, Austria, and England. This was a measure of high importance, and of mutual security. They solemnly reviewed the provisions of the treaties of Vienna, and laid great stress on those which "exclude for ever Napoleon Buonaparte and his family from the throne of France" (*l'exclusion à perpétuité de Napoléon Buonaparte et de sa famille*).

At the same period there was concluded the celebrated treaty, the Holy Alliance. At this point England deserted her allies, declining to concur. The Emperors of Russia and Austria, and the King of Prussia, bound themselves, "in conformity with the principles of the Holy Scriptures, which order all men to regard each other as brothers, and considering themselves as com-

patriots, to lend each other every aid, assistance, and succour, on every occasion; and, regarding themselves towards their subjects and armies as fathers, to direct them on every occasion in the same spirit of fraternity with which they are animated, to protect religion, peace, and justice." The treaty proceeded to set forth that the three Powers regarded themselves as delegated by Providence to govern those branches of one and the same Christian nation, of which Almighty God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, was the sole real sovereign. They furthermore invited into this Holy Alliance all the Powers who should solemnly avow the sacred principles which had dictated it. The treaty excited considerable perplexity at the time. It was observed that this treaty was at the same time most vague and most solemn, and bound the contracting parties to nothing more than, as Christian princes, they stood already pledged to observe. The Prince Regent, in reply to a joint letter from the three sovereigns, requesting him to accede to it, declined to become a party to the treaty, but at the same time expressed his satisfaction with the nature of it, and gave an assurance that the British Government would not be one of the least disposed to act up to its principles. It unfortunately happened that the Holy Alliance subsequently became identified with the principles and practice of arbitrary government. Its origin, however, we may believe to have been devised from deep and sincerely religious feeling on the part of the Emperor Alexander.

Three other Vienna treaties must be mentioned. The first related to the Ionian Islands. These were placed under the protectorate of Great Britain. The second conferred on Russia a special payment of half-a-million, in consideration of extraordinary efforts she had made over and above her proper contingent. The third had reference to the custody of the person of Napoleon. Besides these, the Congress of Vienna legislated on the subject of slavery, affixing to it a European stigma, and beneficially regulated, or rather created, a public law of the great rivers of Europe—the Rhine, the Danube, the Vistula, the Po—calculated to simplify different systems, promote commerce, and abolish occasions of difference.

We have only given a slight view of the various international transactions which marked this important legislative era. The details of some treaties have been omitted, and other treaties have not even been mentioned. Under the former head are the assignment of the throne of the Netherlands to the House of Nassau, and the provisions for a constitutional government; as also the constitution given to Poland, which established a government and executive completely Polish. Under the latter head are the various treaties of detail rendered necessary to carry out the new territorial arrangements. In the reconstruction of Prussia, besides the treaties mentioned, there were special arrangements with Hanover, Saxe-Weimar, and Nassau.

In his recent address to the Corps Législatif, the Emperor of the French asserted that the treaties of 1815 have ceased to exist (*ont cessé d'exister*). This remark has justly provoked a great deal of criticism, and can only be understood with many exceptions and limitations. The instances which the Emperor enumerates may be rapidly summed up. His own accession to the throne of France is the most prominent instance, and, as we have seen, is in verbal contravention of European legislation. It is, however, to be observed that the Congress of Vienna never contemplated the extreme case of putting a veto on the all but unanimous wish of the French people. The existence of earlier violations must also be admitted. In 1830 the kingdom of the

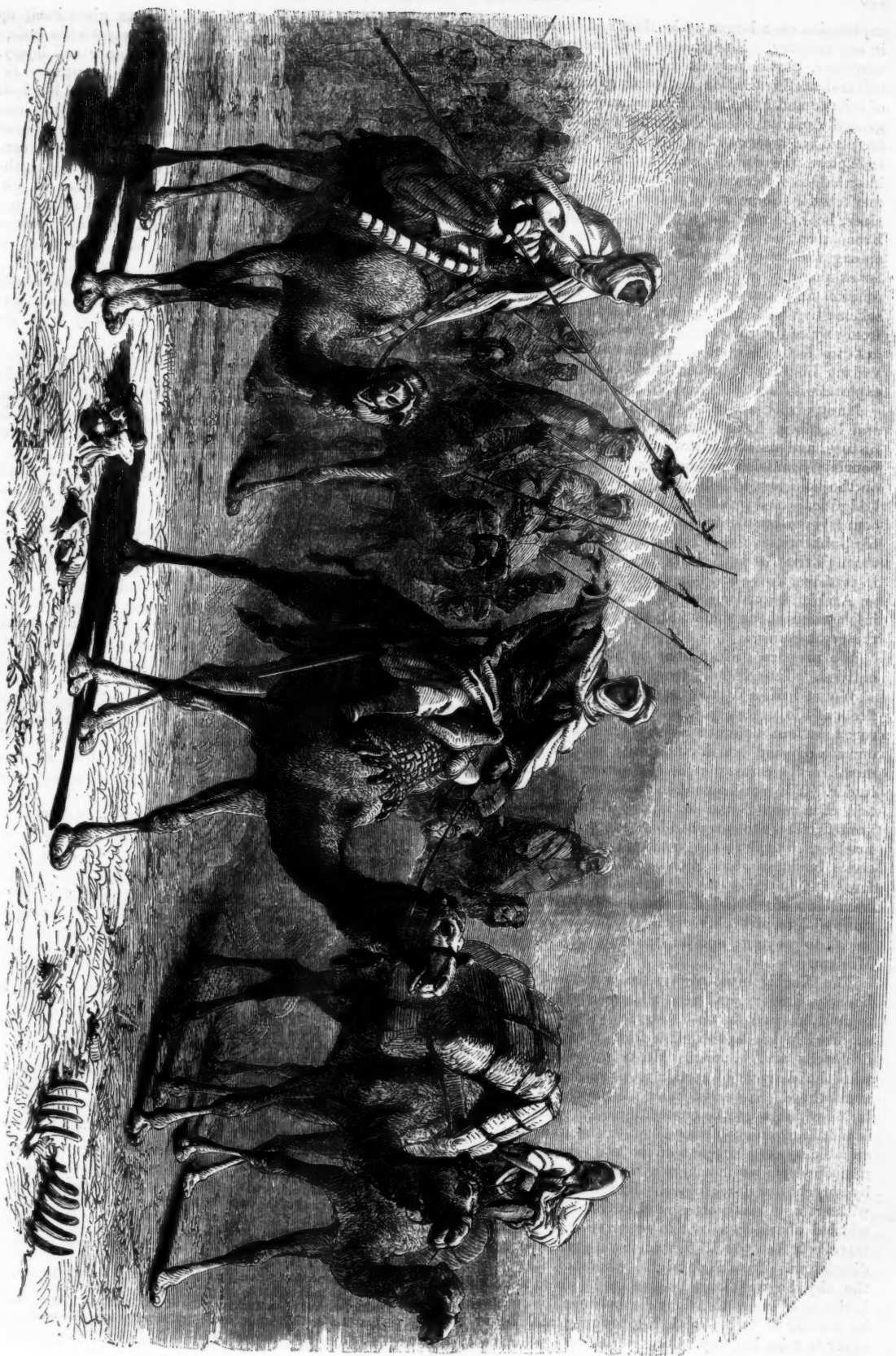
Netherlands was dissolved. The difference of religion had been the main cause of unhappiness in this ill-sorted union. In the new arrangements consequent, the great Powers pressed hardly on the insurgent state, and gave every possible territorial advantage to Holland. King Leopold, the admirable sovereign of Belgium, has raised his country to high prosperity, and a higher degree of consideration than would otherwise have been attained. Russia, the moving Power in the Vienna Congress, has, in the case of Poland, completely nullified its decrees. After the unhappy rebellion of 1820, Poland was incorporated as an integral portion of the Russian Empire. Austria, by the resumption of Cracow, has not been left free from complicity in this guilt. The political map of Italy has been entirely altered, affecting the maps of France, Sardinia, Austria, and the Italian States. France has gained Nice and Savoy, and Austria has lost the fairest provinces of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, while, by the accession of these, of the Papal provinces, of the Duchies, of the two Sicilies, Italy, instead of being merely a geographical expression, has been consolidated into a substantial kingdom. The public law, in reference to the Danubian Principalities, has been also modified. The most flagrant violation of the principles of Vienna legislation has undoubtedly been that exhibited by Russia herself, the prime mover in the Vienna Congress. The constitutional rights secured to Poland have been ruthlessly trodden under foot by irresponsible power, in defiance of the most positive engagements, and those principles of equity and piety so solemnly professed in the terms of the Holy Alliance. The regulations, as far as they respected France, were modified most favourably for the kingdom by the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle, which met in 1818, three years after that of Vienna. The whole of the foreign troops were withdrawn from France two years earlier than had been stipulated, and favourable conditions were made for the payment of the debt due to the Allies.

But when we have taken full count of all the departures from the treaties of Vienna, it is still most inaccurate to suppose that they have ceased to exist. Though much has been taken, much yet remains. A law remains in force, though its definitions may be affected, and its scope and action be modified. The treaty of Westphalia was very greatly modified by subsequent treaties, such as those of Nimeguen, Ryswick, Utrecht, Paris, and Versailles, during which more than one kingdom was pulled down or set up. Yet this venerable instrument was justly regarded as the basis of public law in Europe till the present century, when the vast territories reclaimed from France rendered a new settlement absolutely necessary. At the present moment nearly all the sovereigns of Europe hold dominions under the tenure of the titles ratified at Vienna. So it is that the kingdom of Prussia exists. So it is that the Germanic Confederation exists. So it is that Sweden holds Norway; Austria, Venice; England, Malta. To deny the validity of these treaties of 1815, so far as they are left unchanged by the changes of nearly half a century, is to attack the vested interests of states, and possibly to make a step towards inaugurating another era of revolutions.

A CARAVAN AND ITS LEADER.

The famous lion-hunter, Jules Gérard, published a pamphlet in 1860, entitled, "Exploration of the Sahara and the African Continent," in which he proposed to carry on

THE LEADER OF THE CARAVAN.



exploration on a larger scale than had been done before in any country. He appealed to all interests and all corporations, particularly to religious, geographical, agricultural, acclimatization, and other societies, to academies of science and chambers of commerce—to contribute to a general fund, to select the proper men, and to send out, not one, but a series of expeditions in various directions, to explore the country with combined efforts. His acknowledged object was, besides exploration, to secure new markets for the industry and commerce of France. Besides, he evidently aimed at making the superiority of Frenchmen an acknowledged and incontestable fact among the inhabitants of the Sahara, and thereby, as far as possibly can be done, to prepare their final submission and conquest. We cannot tell whether his scheme met with any support from the governments, or from any of the corporations to which it was addressed; but we have learned from the newspapers that the valiant lion-hunter set out last year for a lonely tour of exploration from the shores of the Red Sea.

Many works, and among them some of great research and learning, have been published on the geography, history, and natural history of Algeria, and the neighbouring countries and nations. General Daumas, who on the title page calls himself "Directeur des Affaires de l'Algérie," has published several books to make his countrymen acquainted with their new colony. One of his publications, the "Itinerary of an Arabian Caravan through the Sahara," is both instructive and amusing. It professes to be written down from the oral report of an Arabian traveller, and contains a good deal of curious information about the Arabs, their life and manners, and the great Sahara.

We propose giving here an abstract of the chapter entitled, "The Khébir" (leader of a Caravan):—

We call Khébir the leader of a caravan: for these fleets of the desert, you may well imagine, do not venture to set out without a chief. Like as the watery plain, our sea of sand has its tempests and its rocks. Each member of a caravan owes the strictest obedience to its leader. His government is absolute, like that of a captain of a man-of-war on board of his vessel. He has various officers to carry out his orders: preceding quartermasters, to explore the country; a Khadja (writer), to settle business transactions, to bring them into regular form, and to write the contracts, to make the will of a traveller who should die, and to carry out his dispositions with regard to his effects; a Mouddein, or Muezzin, to call to prayers; and an Iman, to pray for the faithful Moslem.

The Khébir must always be a man of intelligence, honesty, bravery, and good address; he must know how to find his path by the stars, and, from the experience acquired in his travels with former caravans, where to find wells and pastures. He must be well acquainted with the dangers of certain passages, and the means to avoid them. He must know all the chiefs of the territories which are to be passed. He must know what diet is most convenient under given circumstances, and most suitable to certain parts of the country; he must know remedies against fractures and against wounds inflicted by serpents and scorpions. In the vast solitary plains, without any mark of a road, where the sand is often whirled about, so as not to preserve even a trace of the traveller's feet, the Khébir knows a great many points to direct him. In a dark night, when no star is seen in the sky, he will know where he is, from a handful of herbs or of earth that he rubs between his fingers, that he touches or tastes with his tongue; and he is sure never to miss his way.

After appointing a Khébir, a caravan gives itself up to him without reserve. But he is responsible before the law, and bound to shield it from danger and injury. He has to pay the *dia* (price of blood, or penalty for manslaughter) for every traveller who through his fault should die or miss his way. He incurs a penalty whenever the caravan suffers from want of water, or has not been duly protected from robbers. However, as returning is out of the question, and, as, when once begun, the journey must be made at any risk and under all circumstances, a caravan will certainly neither accuse nor threaten a chief before arriving in a safe place, where proceedings can be taken against him in a court of law.

A faithless Khébir could—as in a few cases it really has happened—sell them to the Touareghs,* lead them into an ambush, share the booty and stay with the robbers.

Our leader, Cheggueun, had all the qualities of a good Khébir. He was young, tall, strong, a good swordsman, his eye commanding respect, his word captivating the heart. But while a gentle talker in the tent, he said no word but what was indispensable when once on his march, and laughed never.

He was devoted to travelling, both by natural disposition and by calling. To inspire confidence he had taken a wife at Fusalah, the extreme point of the Tuât,† where the western caravans assemble for starting, and another wife in the Djebel-Hoggar (the residence of his countrymen the Touareghs), which must be crossed to reach the Soudan. Accordingly, he had friends and relatives in the two principal places of the journey, thereby entering into connections with the merchants of the Algerian Sahara, with those of the Tuât and those of Morocco, while at the same time he insured the indispensable protection of the Touareghs.

In his previous journeys he had made the acquaintance of some of our marabouts, and was therefore welcome to every one when he settled in Metlily.‡ He often spoke of his travelling adventures, and always with so much eloquence as to make a great impression upon our young men.

"The Soudan," he said, "is the richest country in the world. A slave can there be bought for a burnous (Arabian garment), gold is given for its weight in silver, buffalo and buck-skins, sayas§ and ivory, are selling at the lowest price; the goods of a caravan can be increased in their value by the hundredfold. You are fools, oh, my children, to stay here in Timimim (town of the Tuât, 120 miles west of Metlily). What a fine journey! Do you wish to acquire riches? Let us go to the country of the Moors. Remember what the prophet says:—

"The scab of camels is cured by tar,
The remedy against poverty is the Soudan.""

While listening to him we soon became desirous of adventures. Hope of making a fortune tempted us, while his position warranted us against being engaged in a reckless enterprise. He was well known in our tribe, and

* The Touareghs, Arabian tribes, inhabiting an extended tract of land between Tanis in the north-east, Morocco in the north-west, and the Soudan in the south of the great Sahara. They are robbers by profession, and live upon plunder from the caravans that have not paid black mail to insure their protection. They recognise a common chief (*sheik*), who resides in the Djebel-Hoggar, a wooded mountain pass in a central situation.

† Tuât, the north-western part of the great Sahara. There are as many villages in the Tuât as days in the year. (Arabian saying.)

‡ Metlily, capital of an Arabian tribe of the Chambas, in the Tuât.

§ Sayas is a cotton texture made by the negroes of the Soudan: it is generally dyed blue or black, and has only a yard in width.

had lately taken a young, rich, and handsome wife, by whom he had a child. We considered him accordingly as one of our countrymen.

We resolved, fifteen in number, all relatives and friends, marabouts of the family of Ouled Sidi Zigrom, to take our chance of a journey, under his conduct, to the country of the Moors; and next morning we set out for the cities of the Beni Mezab, in the east of Metlily, viz., Gardaise, Beni Figem, and Mellika, to purchase such goods as are most appreciated in the Soudan, and not bulky enough to be an embarrassment in our journey.

We bought needles and pins, corals, beads, paper, sulphur, cinnamon, benzoin, drin—which is a kind of scent—black pepper, drapery, handkerchiefs, wax, cotton goods, woollen garments, etc., besides iron and steel, in order to exchange it in the Tuât for tobacco and salt.

Each of us charged three camels with his goods, and we returned to Metlily to finish our preparations. We resolved to start on Thursday next—Thursday, as is well known, being an auspicious day to set out for a journey. The prophet has said—"Never depart on another day but Thursday, and always in company. If you are alone, a demon will follow you; are you two, two demons will tempt you; being three, you will be guarded against wicked thoughts, and, as soon as you are three, take a chief."

The season was favourable; we were then in the last days of August: the warmest days were over, and we were sure to find new dates in the Tuât, to form part of our provisions.

The chiefs and marabouts of the Chambas, having ascertained our intention, held a meeting, sent for Cheggueun, and said unto him:—

"O Cheggueun! you have prevailed upon our children to go to the country of the Moors, where, you have told them, they would reap great benefits: May God shield your body and prolong your existence. You know the ways; you are a clever man. Our children are in your hand. Conduct them, lead them, teach them what they do not know, and bring them back again enriched. God bless you."

Cheggueun replied—"If it pleases God, O Chambas, I shall lead your children away in good health, and bring them back again in good health. They will reap great advantages. I will guard them against the Touareghs. The ways are well known to me. As to water, they shall suffer no thirst. I will answer for everything except accidents sent by God."

Thereupon the marabouts recognised Cheggueun as our Khébir, and read over him the first chapter of the Koran:—

"Praise to God, the sovereign of the world,
The mild and pitiful
Lord on the day of retribution!
We worship thee, we pray for thy assistance;
Direct us in the right path, in the path of those whom thou hast
overwhelmed with thy benefits,
Of those who never have incurred thy wrath and who do not go
astray. Amen!"

"O Cheggueun!" they said, "may God give you his blessings. May he secure your steps in this world. May he give you great gain. May he lead all of you in safety to the end of your journey, and bring you in safety back again. O Cheggueun! we appoint you to be the Khébir of our children, who have become your children."

A numerous crowd of relatives, friends, and neighbours surrounded us, many of them crying. And tears were likewise in our own eyes; for we thought of the hazards we were about to run, and, although fully resolved,

we could not help regretting to leave those who loved us, and whom we loved, for such a length of time, perhaps for ever. But our resolution being taken, we should have preferred setting out at once, if it only had been to avoid "leave-taking, which softens the heart."

In the evening of the same day, after a common supper, we clubbed the money together to buy a new suit of clothes for our Khébir, and to make him a present of thirty silver douros, according to custom. As is likewise the custom, we agreed upon keeping him free of expense during the whole journey.

SOME SURNAMES.

LOOKING back over history to the dimly discernible times when our forefathers had no surnames, we wonder truly how they did without those convenient handles for identification. And we can fancy how gradually such were invented by necessity, struck out from personal peculiarities, or feats of prowess, or possessions, until they came to be as much a part of a man's self as the colour of his hair.

There was a Norman nobleman once with a very short nose, called thence Court-nez (probably about the time that Duke Robert had short legs and was called Court-hoze), and he was ancestor to all the Courtenays since. There was a Scottish knight who took charge of Robert Bruce's heart home from Spain, whither the Douglas had brought it on the way to Jerusalem, in obedience to the monarch's dying desire; and when he brought back the precious relic, he assumed the device of a heart with a lock upon it, being in memory of the silver case he had guarded so faithfully, and was called Sir Simon Lockheart ever after. There was a third son of the third Earl of Leicester, born at the manor of Hambleton, in Buckinghamshire, who, when he went to push his fortune in Scotland, about 1215, was called after his birthplace, and gave name to all the generations of Hamiltons since. These are specimens of the three most usual origins of surnames, and the list could be multiplied almost indefinitely.

In the last-mentioned county of Bucks, there was, when William the Conqueror was quartering his foreign favourites over the fair realm of England, a Saxon family named Shobington, who were not satisfied thus lightly to part with their broad acres. Hearing that the Norman lord was coming to whom the estate had been gifted by the king, the head of the house armed his servants and tenants, preparing to do battle for his rights; he cast up works which remain to this day in grassy mounds, marking the sward of the park, and established himself behind them to await the despoiler's onset. It was the period when hundreds of herds of wild cattle roamed the forest lands of Britain; and, failing horses, the Shobingtons collected a number of bulls, rode forth on them, and routed the Normans, unused to such cavalry. William heard of the defeat, and conceived a respect for the brave man who had caused it; he sent a herald with a safe-conduct to the chief Shobington, desiring to speak with him. Not many days after, came to court eight stalwart men, riding upon bulls, the father and seven sons. "If thou wilt leave me my lands, O king," said the old man, "I will serve thee faithfully as I did the dead Harold." Whereupon the Conqueror confirmed him in his ownership, but ordered the name of the family to be thenceforth, in perpetuation of the above circumstances, Bullstrode instead of Shobington.

Now whether this legend be true or not, certain it is

that traces of the earthen fortifications which checked the Normans exist in Bulstrode Park at this present writing.

It may be news to some Douglasses to learn that their ancestor who first made mark in history was the chief who, in 778, came to the aid of the King of Scotland when sorely pressed by the Lord of the Isles. After the victory, the monarch desired to see his deliverer, who, coming into the presence, was pointed out by the darkness of his complexion in the Gaelic words, "Sholto Dhu-glash"—"Behold the black man," and to him, under this name, were lands given as reward.

The Erskines are said to have a Gaelic derivation of a similar sort. At some battle in the reign of Malcolm II, a Scotchman killed a Danish general, and, having cut off his head, said, "Eryier skyne," signifying head and dagger; whereupon the king imposed on him the surname of Erskine, and gave him the armorial bearing of a hand wielding a dagger.

Perhaps the wide-spread and highly-descended family of Grahams may not be pleased to hear that the decidedly low-bred name of Grimes is merely an offset of their distinguished patronymic. All are alike posterity to that far-away Pict, Grumach or the Grim, who, fourteen hundred years ago, leaped scornfully over Severn's broken wall, between Forth and Clyde, thereby initiating all the highland raids upon lowlands that have since occurred. "Graham's Dyke" is the country name for the relics of the wall to this day. The descendants of the Grim inherited much of his restless ways. James VI wrote to Queen Elizabeth, complaining that "the Grimeses"—he meant the Grahams—"had resetted," or harboured some criminals on the borders. A certain Dick Grimes or Graham defeated the Earl of Desmond, routing six hundred by sixty. And there is a letter among the state papers from Sir Henry Lee, stating, as a most marvellous piece of news, that "the Grahams are quiet." Thus we find the names Graham and Grimes merely convertible terms in old manuscripts: in fact, the latter, or least euphonious, is the older form of the surname.

All men know that the royal House of Stuart was derived from Walter, Lord High Steward of Scotland, and was named from his office, which became hereditary under Malcolm IV, confirmed by such words as these: "Granted in fee-farm and inheritance my high stewardship, to be held by him and his heirs of me and my heirs." Thus riveted in the position, the family took its title for their cognomen, and retained it when they became greater than stewards.

The fact is curious, that at the threatened invasion of England by the elder Napoleon, many descendants of French refugees changed their names for words in English bearing the same signification; they did not want to be identified with the foes of the nation which had naturalized them. Thus, Lemaitre became Masters, Leroy was transmuted into King, Letonnelier into Cooper, Leblanc and Lenoir into White and Black. Yet the Huguenot element of nomenclature may still be traced in the highest places of our social system. Lord Eversley is a Lefevre; the discoverer of Nineveh is a Layard; Latouche was a great banker; Saurin a great lawyer and a great preacher; Thellusson the millionaire made the most eccentric will of modern date. Flanders likewise has given us the large family of Fleming, through all its variations of spelling.

A widely-diffused series of surnames are those beginning with Mac and O, generally considered to be unmistakably indicative of country. They are Celtic prefixes, signifying literally son and grandson, similarly to

the Norman Fitz, an early form of the French *filz*. Now there was a certain abbot of Kingussie, who for state reasons procured a dispensation from his vows, that he might become chieftain of the clan Chattan, which came to him by the death of the male heirs; in pursuance of the same dispensation he married, and his children were always called by the Inverness folk Mac-pherson, *i.e.*, sons of the parson. For the prefix Mac always sets forth direct descent, while O indicates collateral relationship.

Surnames would appear to have been last of all invented in the Principalities; consequently double duty falls on the Christian names. Who that has walked through a Welsh town but remembers the scores of Williamses, Robertses, Thomases, that met his eye and ear on every side? The whole population seem to exist on their baptismal appellations, which may be attributable to the old Cambrian custom of making the father's Christian name the son's surname. Thus, the father of the pious Philip Henry was one John Henry, who, if he had lived in Wales, should have called his son Philip Johns or Jones, and whose own father was Henry Williams of Swansea.

At the present time, there seems to be a movement in favour of double surnames, such as Leveson-Gower, Wyndham-Quin, Beresford-Hope, Bulwer-Lytton. This may arise from family alliances in some instances, and certainly serves the purpose of preventing a confusion of houses. Thus it may be regarded as a symptom of thickening population. Could it be that British society is about to be afflicted with a scarcity of surnames?

RECENT AFRICAN EXPLORATIONS.

CHAPTER II.

DR. BARTH joined his fellow-travellers on their way to the Soudan, or Negroland, and reached the frontier place, Tagelel, 15° north latitude, in January, 1851. Soon afterwards the travellers parted with the chief Annur of Tinbélust, who had conducted them to the Soudan, and with each other, Mr. Richardson taking the easterly route through Zinder to the lake Tsad; Dr. Overweg proceeding westward to Gober, and Dr. Barth in a southern direction to Katsena. There are large cultivated fields within this place, as is the case with all the so-called cities of the Soudan. Katsena, which, for its size, could have 100,000 inhabitants, has only 7000. Our traveller was delayed there for more than a month, under the pretence of the governor that he waited for the orders of the Emir el Mumenin (prince of the believers), while his real intention was to extort a valuable present. Our author accounts for the sinking in wealth and population of Katsena in a historical sketch, which contains an interesting picture of the policy of African chiefs, the relations of the various tribes, and the differences of Mohammedan sects. When at last he was at liberty to go on, he went to Kanó, a great centre of African commerce and manufacture. Cotton and indigo are cultivated in the fertile province of the same name in which the town is situated, and cotton cloth, woven and dyed here in the form of robes, plaids, and dresses of various descriptions, is the staple article of production and commerce. The whole amount of export of this article alone, to Timbuctu, Ghat, Gadamer—in fact, in every direction—is estimated at 300 millions kurdí. Kurdí, or couries, are the shells which here are used instead of coin, and 12,000 of them are worth about a pound sterling. The whole export of dyed and ready-made cotton goods is thus reduced to the value of about £25,000. But, con-

sidering the high value of money, or the cheapness of commodities, this amounts, in reality, to much more in Africa than in England. We are told that from 50,000 to 60,000 kurdí—that is, from four to five pounds sterling a year—is a sufficient income for a whole family to live upon with ease, including every expense, even their clothing. Besides cotton goods, there are many other commodities made in and exported from Kanó. Tanned hides, red dyed sheepskins, sandals, and very nice leather bags, may be mentioned. Another important branch of the commerce of Kanó is the transit of natron from Bornu to Núpe, estimated at ten million kurdí. Imported are salt, estimated at a value of sixty million kurdí; “guro,” or kola nut, an article of consumption, which at the same time forms an important article of the transit trade. The ivory passing through Kanó is stated to amount to no more than about ten million kurdí.

Very remarkable is the account of European, particularly English goods imported, and still more so the statement “that American slave-dealers have opened a regular annual slave-trade with these very regions, while the English seem not to have the slightest idea of such a traffic going on. Thus, American produce, brought in large quantities to the market of Núpe, has begun to inundate Central Africa, to the great damage of the commerce and the most unqualified scandal of the Arabs, who think that the English, if they would, could easily prevent it.” (Barth, chap. xxv. p. 134, vol. ii.) That the slave-trade also forms an important branch of inland commerce of Kanó is admitted. The population of the town of Kanó is estimated at 30,000; but during the busy season, from January to April, the influx of foreigners is so great that it may amount to 60,000. Our author gives a very lively description of the city and its inhabitants; which, however, would lose its interest in an abstract, and occupy too much space if given unabridged.

The province of Kanó is computed to contain a population of 1,200,000 free people, besides at least an equal number of slaves. The governor is able to raise an army of 7000 horse, and more than 20,000 men on foot. He levies a tribute of about a hundred millions of kurdí, besides the presents he receives from merchants. His authority is not absolute, an appeal being admissible from his decision to his liege lord, the emir El Mumenin, or emperor of Sokoto; the governor's power being, besides, limited by a sort of a ministerial council, which he is bound to consult. The “ghalatíma,” or chief minister, is the first, and the “serki-n-dawakay” the second member of this council. The country is well cultivated, particularly with cotton and indigo. The number of slaves is great; as a rule they are well treated, as is generally the case in the Soudan.

While travelling in an easterly direction, Dr. Barth learned that, on March 4th, 1851, Mr. Richardson, on his way to Kúkawa, had died in Ngurutúwa. Our traveller learned, in this latter place, that Mr. Richardson had arrived in the evening in a weak state, and died in the morning. The natives, well aware that it was a Christian who had died there, had nevertheless protected his grave with thorn-bushes, and taken good care of it. Dr. Barth caused it afterwards to be surrounded by a fence. He arrived soon after in Kúkawa, the capital of Bornu, where he found the news confirmed that Mr. Richardson's property had been seized by the sheik. There was, however, a full inventory taken of all that his fellow-traveller had left. Dr. Barth was allowed to ascertain that his journals and collectanea were in safe keeping. But seeing, at the same time, that some valuable things

had been either appropriated or sold, he managed, by decision and firmness, to come to amicable arrangements. Some property was lost; but, while he found it utterly impracticable to insist upon a right that could not be enforced, he managed, at least, to conciliate the goodwill of some persons of influence. One of them, the vizier Háý Beshir, a benevolent and intelligent man, promised him every assistance for carrying out the ends of his mission. Our traveller accompanies the sheik Omar of Bornu in a trip from his capital Kúkawa to a southern residence, Ngornu, situated on the large lake Tsad. This lake, which no European had seen before, is here first described. Three or four considerable rivers, shedding their waters into it, may yet render it highly important for the intercourse and commerce of Europe with the Soudan. It is surrounded by swampy lowlands and luxuriant meadows. Its shores being very flat, and the quantity of the water varying, the outlines of the lake are changeable, and cannot be mapped with accuracy. The elephant, the hippopotamus, the *Antelope Arabia*, are met here in large flocks; the lake abounds in fish, and contains crocodiles and large turtles. Some islands are inhabited by the piratical “Budumas,” tall, well-grown, intelligent savages, black like ebony, and gifted with excellent white teeth. Their boats are made of the narrow boards of the fogo tree, which are tied together with ropes of the dun palm, the holes being stopped with moss. Their whole dress consists of a tight leather apron round their loins, the remainder of their body being left naked. When Dr. Overweg arrived, the two travellers received what was left of the late Mr. Richardson's property, and, after having made due presents to the sheik and his vizier, broached the subject of a treaty of commerce. The sheik and his minister assured them of their ardent desire to enter into commercial connections with England, their principal object being to obtain firearms; but it does not appear that any further step in the matter was at this time taken.

Soon after these transactions Dr. Barth set out in a south-south-west direction for a journey to Yola, the capital of Adámawa, his main object being to ascertain the course of the rivers flowing into the Niger or Kwara. Some messengers from the governor of Adámawa to the sheik of Bornu had arrived, and he availed himself of the opportunity to undertake the journey in their company. The sheik of Bornu sent an officer to the governor of Adámawa, who joined the little caravan. They passed several encampments of the Shúwa Arabs, by which term are meant all the Arabs settled in Bornu, and forming a component part of its population. Their ancestors, more than two hundred years ago, emigrated from the east; they are divided into many clans. Their whole number is estimated at 225,000, and they are able to bring into the field 20,000 men. Most of them have fixed villages, where they live during the rainy season, attending their agricultural labours, while, during the remainder of the year, they wander about with their cattle. Of several descriptions of wild fruit we will mention the *tóso*, a fruit of a tree which, by the natives in the Hawsa language, is called Kadena, in the language of the Tulbe Karehi, and known to botanists as *Bassia Parkii*. The fruit consists almost entirely of a large kernel of the colour and size of a chestnut. It is covered with a thin pulp of pleasant taste, but so thin as scarcely to be worth sucking out. Vegetable butter, an article of general consumption, used both for cookery and as a physic, is made of the kernel. Our author describes two species of ground-nuts, one of which contains a good deal of oil. They form a large article of con-

sumption, particularly when the corn crops have failed, and are used in about the same proportion as potatoes in Europe: as grain or corn, either millet (*Pennisetum typhoides*) or sorghum, are almost exclusively cultivated in neighbouring districts, according to the peculiarity of the soil, as it is more favourable to the one or the other. Some districts were well cultivated, the fields being shaded and adorned by the butter tree and ground-nuts, or beans growing in regular intervals between the corn.

The camels of our travellers became to the natives of the southern countries objects of the greatest wonder and curiosity, these animals being but rarely brought to those parts, the climate of which does not agree with them for any length of time.

It was on this journey that our author saw and crossed the two tributary rivers of the Niger, the Bénoué and Faro, a sight that, as we have seen before, gave him so much delight that he called that hour the happiest of his life. He found the Bénoué, where he crossed it, at least eight hundred yards broad, and its bed in the average eleven feet deep. After the rainy season the river rises at least thirty, but often even fifty feet higher. The waters preserve their highest level from about the 20th of August to the end of September. The Faro was about six hundred yards broad, and in the average not deeper than two feet; its current, however, is much more violent than that of the Bénoué, whence our traveller inferred that the mountain was not far distant from which the river came.

Our traveller arrived in Yola, the capital of Adámawa, but his letter of introduction from the sheik of Bornu turned out to be a great disadvantage for him. The officer who, as has been stated, was sent with the caravan, had letters from his master to Mohamed Lowel, sheik of Adámawa, by which the writer laid claim to a great portion of the country. The same letters said, with regard to Dr. Barth, "that the object of his journey to Adámawa was a secret to the writer." The governor, or, as he styles himself, sultan, considered the message as an act of enmity on the part of the sheik, and suspected very naturally that our traveller, either personally, or as an agent of the English Government, shared the inimical intentions of the sheik from whom he came, and who had given him letters of introduction. Dr. Barth was accordingly not allowed to stay in the capital, but received the order to leave the country on the same day. He returned to Kúkawa with the messenger in whose company he had travelled to Yola.

Yola is the capital of the province Fumbina, which the governor of the time, after the name of his father, called Adámawa. The said father, the malle Adama, had succeeded in founding a new Mohammedan empire on the ruins of several small pagan kingdoms. This country, Fumbina or Adámawa, is about two hundred miles long, and from seventy to eighty miles broad; it was by no means entirely subjected to the conquerors, large tracts, particularly the mountainous regions, being still in the hands of the pagans.

Slavery exists in this lately-conquered country on an immense scale, there being many private individuals who possess more than a thousand slaves. The country is one of the finest and most fertile of Central Africa, being irrigated by numerous rivers, of which the Bénoué and the Faro are the most important. There is little or no industry, the only articles of export being slaves and ivory. Our traveller had departed from Kúkawa on May 29th, and arrived there, on his return, July 22nd, 1851.

He found there the long-expected supplies, in the

form of merchandise, to the value of £100 sterling; but, being already involved in debt, he was obliged to sell for ready money, instead of giving two or three months' credit, and taking payment in slaves, as is the custom of the country. This caused considerable loss, and one may easily imagine that the remainder could not last very long for a traveller who, in order to attain his ends, was obliged to ingratiate himself by presents into the favour of influential persons. Dr. Barth, with his friend Overweg, and escorted by a troop of Arabian warriors, in a certain manner dependent on the sheik of Bornu, made a trip of exploration on the shores of the Lake Tsad. They found many medicinal herbs, grain-bearing and nourishing plants unknown in Europe. Once they met a herd of ninety-six elephants proceeding in regular march order to the water. They were attacked by a warlike tribe on the borders of Waday, two of their men killed, and Dr. Overweg rendered good services by dressing some severe wounds; they returned with a caravan, and arrived in Kúkawa on November 15th, 1851.

Ten days afterwards the travellers joined a military expedition of Sultan Omar of Bornu, in order to enforce the obedience of a liege, the prince of Mandara (situated in the south of Bornu Proper), who had behaved in a refractory manner. The real object was, however, to fill the coffers of Sheik Omar and the great officers of his state. A razzia for slaves was accordingly to be made, wherever they could be obtained. Cotton is here cultivated to a great extent, and would be obtained of the best quality if due care were employed by the cultivators. The inhabitants of the town of Dikowa are occupied with weaving the cotton into shirts. Although, however, they are said to produce a fine sort of texture, the native industry seems not yet able to supply the articles of clothing which the climate requires. The rather severe court etiquette of the capital was so far dispensed with during the expedition, that our travellers, being on friendly terms with the sheik and his vizier, had to supply their noble and princely friends with their own woollen jackets and drawers, which, extremely poor in every respect as they were at the time, imposed upon them a great privation. It is here suggested that a good cargo of warm under-clothing would find a ready sale in Central Africa, especially if it should arrive in the months December and January.

In a conversation with the vizier about the slave-trade Dr. Overweg made an eloquent appeal for the abolition of slavery. All the vizier had to say in favour of the slave trade was, that it furnished them with the means of buying muskets, and maintaining the political power of their states. He asserted, in the most distinct and emphatic manner, that they were willing to subscribe any obligatory treaty for abolishing the slave-trade, if the British Government on their part would furnish them with a thousand muskets and four cannon: of course not including all at once the abolition of domestic slavery.

The difference with the refractory prince of Mandara was settled by compromise, as soon as he had sent to his liege lord the nominal tribute of ten female slaves. The sheik returned to his capital, and the vizier made a military expedition in the Musgu country south-east from Bornu. The travellers accompanied him: for, though aware that making slaves was the chief object, they could not but avail themselves of the only opportunity for seeing regions the exploration of which was highly important, on account of the rivers which flow into the Lake Tsad. The question whether there was a water communication between these rivers and the

Niger or its tributaries, could only be ascertained by local exploration, while such a connection between those rivers would form a high-road for European commerce into the very heart of Central Africa.

The first object that attracted their attention was a very large wild rice-field in the midst of a forest. In proceeding they found the whole wilderness full of pools of water and dense rice-fields. Some Shúwa colonies in the neighbourhood cultivate to a large extent the "sweet sorghum" (*Sorghum saccharatum*). Some of the stalks measured fourteen feet; but, in more luxuriant valleys, Dr. Barth found afterwards specimens of double that length. In the evening the vizier treated his guests with the marrow of this sorghum, which, in snow-white pieces of about eight inches length, being neatly placed upon a straw cover, as is usual in the country, formed a decent-looking and delicious African dainty. This plant would certainly yield a rich produce of sugar; but the sugar-cane itself grows wild in the country, and our travellers had seen a plantation of it, and boiling-houses on a small scale in Sokoto.

They crossed jungles covered with brushwood and rank grass, here and there trampled down by the immense tracks of the elephant; then again large plains adorned with numerous fan palms. One of the pagan Musgu chiefs, a betrayer of his nation, made his submission, brought presents, and was made a liege of Bornu, by a sudden ceremonious act of enfeoffment carried out in the tent of the general. The men of the Musgu are vigorous and fierce, and often oppose an obstinate resistance to the attacks of their enemies, whom they might successfully defeat, if the related tribes of these pagan savages would combine their forces and carry out their military operations after a preconcerted common plan. As it is, this poor Musgu nation—surrounded by the Kanuri in the north, who are powerful in cavalry and firearms, by the restless Fulbe in the west, by the people of Logon in the north-east, originally their kinsmen, but opposed, since converted to Islamism, by Bornu in the north-west, and the wild Bagirmi people in the east; all proud of their supposed pre-eminence in religion, eager for the profits of the slave-trade, hunting their victims down from every quarter, and carrying away every year thousands of slaves—must in course of time be thoroughly extirpated. Their harvests, their neatly-built and well-thatched houses and granaries, were destroyed, and 170 full-grown men slaughtered, before the eyes of our traveller, the greater part being allowed to bleed to death, a leg having been severed from their body.

Cotton and tobacco are cultivated by the Musgu. Men and women indulge in smoking. The whole country was well cultivated and densely inhabited, village succeeding after village. There seemed to be no scarcity of necessities and even luxuries of food. Honey abounded, fish were plentiful, and even flocks of turtle-doves were not wanting in that fertile region, so rich in water and vegetation.

A water communication probably exists by intermediate, however shallow, watercourses between the river Kwara (Niger) and one of the rivers flowing into the Lake Tsad; or if not, the breadth of country cannot be more than at the utmost twenty miles. The soil is not rocky but alluvial, and Lake Tsad and the river Bénoué, near Gwé, seem to have the same level.

The whole booty of the army of Bornu, in the Musgu country, consisted, besides 10,000 head of cattle, of about 3000 slaves, women and children, most of them under eight years of age. All full-grown men falling into the hands of the victors, 300 altogether, were slaughtered.

Before dismissing the army, the spoil was divided between Bornuans, Fellani, and Shuwa.

Dr. Barth returned with the vizier to the capital Kúkawa, on February 1st, 1852, and departed for a new journey to Bagirmi, in the east of Musgu, on March 4th.

He found only a few patches of wheat, and informs us that this grain has only lately been introduced into Negroland, and is known only by its Arabic name of El Kámeh. Logon is a sort of limited monarchy, tributary to Bornu, which has a similar political constitution, the high functionaries of either country forming a divan. One of these high officers in Logon, who has the title Water King, forbade our traveller, who was very hospitably received by the court, to survey the river, and it was only after applying to higher authority that he succeeded in obtaining permission. In making a short excursion in a boat, he was watched with anxious curiosity. The river is a western side branch of the Shari, which from south to north flows into the Lake Tsad. A great deal of cotton is grown in the country, and weaving is one of the principal employments of the people, their shirts being of excellent manufacture. Besides a beautiful lattice-work made of cane, bowls and other vessels made of wood, and of good workmanship, are the productions and articles of export of Logon.

Our traveller entered Bagirmi, but was by official orders prohibited from proceeding to the capital. He resolved to return to Logon, but was laid in irons by the head man of a village, in pursuance of an order from the lieutenant-governor of the country. Set free by the interference of a functionary, he received permission to go on to the capital, Masend, where he was watched with great suspicion by the ignorant and superstitious officials, but met some well-informed—nay, even learned men.

The currency of Bagirmi, as of some other African countries, consists in strips of cotton of unequal measures and different quality. Larger articles are bought for shirts, the value of which, according to size and quality, varies from 70 to 150 cotton strips. Slaves were sold at 25 to 30 common white shirts, a price equal to from six to seven Spanish dollars. Dr. Barth received a fárda (a cotton strip) for one large English darning-needle, or for four common German needles. The stock of needles with which he had provided himself was highly useful for him, being taken in many parts of Central Africa as currency, and equally acceptable for presents. In Mandara three needles bought one day's provision for a horse, two needles a wooden bowl, and six a good supply of meat. In Bagirmi, needles were our traveller's only money; he was called "malaribra," needle prince.

A POSY OF QUESTIONS.*

WHAT wisdom more, what better life, than pleaseth God to send?
 What worldly goods, what longer use, than pleaseth God to lend?
 What better fare than well-content, agreeing with thy wealth?
 What better guest than trusty friend, in sickness and in health?
 What better bed than conscience good, to pass the night with sleep?
 What better work than daily care from sin thyself to keep?
 What better thought than think on God, and daily him to serve?
 What better gift than to the poor, that ready be to serve?
 What greater praise of God and man than mercy for to show?
 Who, merciless, shall mercy find, that mercy shows to few?
 What worse despair than loath to die, for fear to go to hell?
 What greater faith than trust in God, through Christ in heaven to dwell?
 —THOMAS TUSSEY, Author of "Good Husbandry." 1557.

* From "English Sacred Poetry of the Olden Time." Collected and arranged by the Rev. L. B. White, M.A., Rector of St. Mary, Aldermary, London. A beautiful gift-book, richly illustrated. Published by the Religious Tract Society, 56, Paternoster Row, and 164, Piccadilly.

Varieties.

LOCUSTS IN NORTHERN INDIA.—Their flight extended from Peshawar to the plains of Lower Bengal and the uplands of Central India. They first appeared in Mooltan in September, 1862, full-grown and of mature age. They came by way of the Scinde deserts, probably from Arabia. After destroying only the crops of mustard and other oil seeds, they passed northward to Rawul Pindee, where first our officers took steps systematically to destroy them and their eggs. The spring crops were gathered in without serious damage; but last April the eggs which escaped destruction were hatched in the sandy tracts of Bunnoo and the gorges of the Kohat and Peshawur Hills, and the Salt range. The people were now fully roused, and in vast numbers destroyed the young swarms. Still, innumerable flights escaped, and tormented the peasantry of Goordaspore, like an Egyptian plague, by filling their houses and leaping into their cooking-pots and wells. The springing cotton and sugar-cane suffered. The native States soon sent forth their swarms, and the whole passed south-east by Rajpootana, the Doab, Benares, Ghazepore, and Chota Nagpore to the delta of the Ganges. They went as high as Almora, doing no damage to the tea-plant, but terrifying its owners. Cotton is unfortunately their favourite, and it is feared they will seriously affect the expected increase of produce this year. At Arrah, where they were very bad, the magistrate described them to me as appearing at sunrise with the whirl of ten thousand weaving machines. They stretched like a firmament for miles on every side, and towered up to heaven in pillars of ever-revolving multitudes, like millions of water-spouts. Every bird abandoned the air to them, and they soon stripped all the plantain trees in the station. With the cold season (1863) they went away to the East; but the fear is that they have left their eggs behind them, and that in place of famine, which irrigation and a permanent settlement of the land-tax will prevent, we may have the locust as a standing curse in India.—*Times Correspondent.*

DEATHS BY FIRE.—A curious statistical return of deaths by fire appeared in a recent Report of the Registrar-General. In the fourteen years, 1848-61, 39,927 persons were burnt alive or scalded to death. Of these, which constitute an average of eight a day, 1344 were infants under one year of age; 4500 were children of one and under two years; and 9777 were between two and four years of age. Between the ages of five and fifteen, 6255 girls and 3750 boys were burnt to death. Above the age of fifteen years, men, who are far more exposed to danger from fire than women, die from this cause in greater numbers; but after the age of fifty years, women again turn the scale, their combustible and exaggerated dresses exposing them to greater risks than men.

MOAS ONLY RECENTLY EXTINCT.—If extinct, the moas have become so probably in quite recent times—that is to say, since the occupation of New Zealand by the Maoris. This opinion, I think, may be supported by philological arguments. "Toa" is the Fijian form of the word "moa," applied throughout Polynesia to domestic fowls, and by the Maoris to the most gigantic extinct birds (*Dinornis*, sp. plur.) disinterred in New Zealand. The Polynesian term for birds that fly about freely in the air is manu or manumanu; and the fact that the New Zealanders did not choose one of these, but the one implying domesticity and want of free locomotion in the air, would seem a proof that the New Zealand moas were actually seen alive by the Maoris about their premises, as stated in their traditions, and have only become extinct in comparatively recent times.—*Berthold Seemann's "Report on Fiji Islands."*

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.—Beside the great advantage of obtaining goods at the lowest price, and free from all risk of adulteration or other fraud, the first, perhaps the most important, advantage bestowed, is the strict economy which is not only inculcated but exacted. Each member must possess a certain number of shares, and a weekly contribution is required until their number is completed. Then all dealings are for ready money, the rule being absolute against giving credit. But a powerful incitement both to economy and exertion of industry is afforded by the hope of profit in those concerns, which, not confined to the supply of goods, extend to branches of manufacture carried on by the labour of the members themselves. Furthermore, beside promoting economy and industry, a manifest encouragement is afforded to temperance in each member, both by the frugal habits acquired, and by

associating with others the bulk of whom abstain from all excess. It is also a most important consideration that the members must acquire habits of business connected with the administration of the common concern. They are generally by rotation all in their turn parts of the managing and governing body. In co-operative societies such a thing as a difference or dispute among the managers, or of these with the members, is hardly ever heard of. At the Rochdale Pioneers' Society, sixteen years had elapsed before the last return, without a single instance of recourse to the arbitrators under the provisions of the Acts. The discussions among the members upon their affairs, on the state of trade, and the events of the day, have had the happy effect of making them practically familiar with the fundamental truths of economical science, especially the principles that regulate prices and wages, and have thus had a salutary influence on their conduct in times of distress.—*Lord Brougham at Edinburgh Social Science Congress.*

ANCIENT INTERCOURSE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND ICELAND.—Before the discovery of Newfoundland, British merchants resorted to ports on the west coast of Iceland, to exchange commodities and procure dried stock-fish. Icelandic ships also visited English ports. This intercommunication can be distinctly traced back to the time of Henry III; but by the beginning of the fifteenth century it had become regular, and had risen to importance. It was matter of treaty between Norway and England; but, with or without special licences, or in spite of prohibitions—sometimes with the connivance and permission of the local authorities, and at other times notwithstanding the active opposition of one or both governments—the trade being mutually profitable to those engaged in it, continued to be prosecuted. English tapestry and linen are mentioned in old Icelandic writings, and subsequently we learn that English strong ale was held in high estimation by the Northmen. Edward III granted certain privileges and exemptions to the fishermen of Blackie and Lyne, in Norfolk, on account of their Icelandic commerce. In favourable weather the distance could be run in about a fortnight. From Icelandic records we learn that in the year A.D. 1412, "thirty ships engaged in fishing were seen off the coast at one time." "In A.D. 1415 there were no fewer than six English merchant ships in the harbour of Hafna Fiord alone." Notwithstanding the proclamations and prohibitions both of Eric and Henry V, the traffic still continued to increase; and we incidentally learn that in the year A.D. 1419, "twenty-five English ships were wrecked on this coast in a dreadful snow-storm." Goods supplied to the natives then, as in later times, were both cheaper and better than could be obtained from the Danish monopolists. It will be remembered by the reader, that when Columbus visited Iceland, he sailed in a bark from the port of Bristol.—*Pen and Pencil Sketches of Faroe and Iceland.* By A. J. Symington.

UNAPPROPRIATED BRITISH LANDS.—From the documents issued at the Colonial Office, it appears that, at the date of the last returns, the extent of these lands, in the three most important groups of these colonies, was estimated thus:—1. That in the North American group—viz., in Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland—there are upwards of 260,000,000 of acres, of which about 187,000,000 remain unalienated; the territories to the west of the Rocky Mountains—viz., British Columbia and Vancouver's Island—however, not being included in these returns. 2. That in the Australasian group—comprehending New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand (exclusive of what still belongs to the natives)—there are more than 1280,000,000 of acres, all of which, excepting about 20,000,000, still remain unalienated. 3. That at the Cape of Good Hope and Natal there are about 123,000,000 of acres, of which about 70,000,000 still remain unalienated. Thus, in these three groups of colonies alone, the extent of territory may be roundly estimated at not less than 1700,000,000 of acres, of which more than 1500,000,000 still remain unalienated. But, besides these, there are the groups of colonies in the West Indies, Ceylon, on the coast of Africa, and elsewhere. There also remains to be noticed the Crown lands in India, which are lying waste in the Neilgherries, Bengal, Oude, Burmah, on the slopes of the Himalaya, and in other parts of the interior, the extent of which is immense, but never reported upon. These estimates, rough as they are, give some notion of the vast extent of unalienated land in the British colonies.